

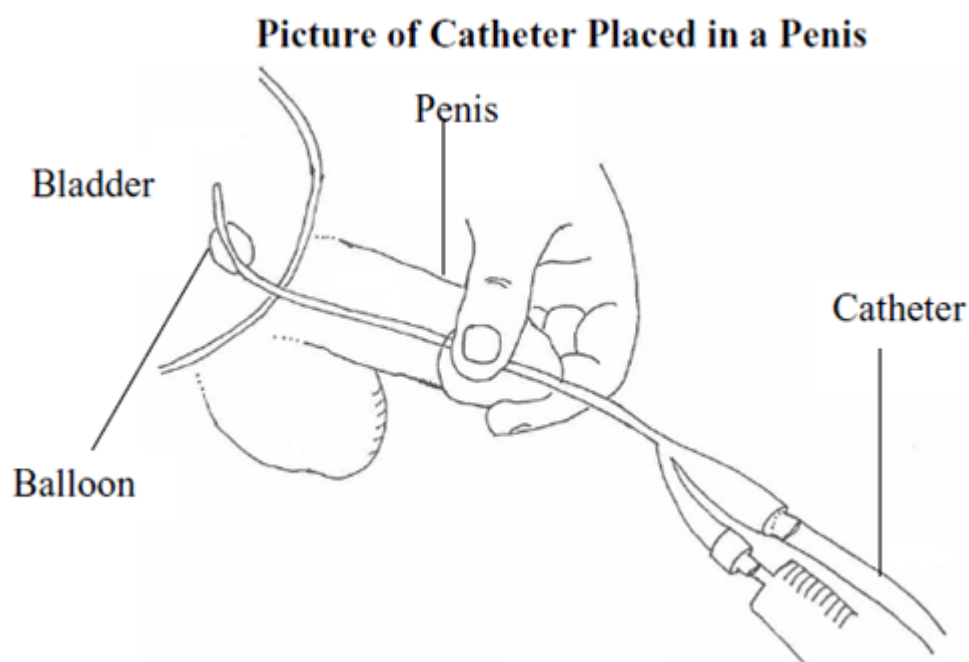
CATHETER REMOVAL FACT SHEET

There are many different varieties and sizes of catheter however the basic principles are the same. There is a rubber or silicone drainage tube with a retention balloon on the tip. The retention balloon holds the catheter inside the bladder so that urine can drain out and be collected in a drainage bag. The system is closed to decrease the chances of an infection developing.

The day your catheter comes out during a clinic appointment please set aside at least two to three hours. This allows time for your catheter to be removed, for you to be taught pelvic floor exercises (Kegel) and undertake a trial of urination to ensure your bladder is working properly.

The process of removing your catheter is straightforward and does not hurt but does feel rather unusual. The water inside the balloon is removed from the valve at the end of the catheter and the catheter is then removed.

Once your catheter is removed, you will most likely leak or pass urine when you don't want to. Being unable to control your urination after your catheter is taken out is normal. It will improve given sufficient time.



THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

The following list could indicate infection or that your bladder may not be draining completely following removal of the catheter. When left untreated, these can lead to complications – Please contact Dr Studd for further advice if any of the following is experienced once home;

- If your bladder does not seem to be fully draining or if you cannot urinate.
- You develop a fever
- A full or bloated feeling in your abdomen
- If you experience heavy bleeding
- If you were to develop a burning sensation during urination that lasts for more than 24 hours following the **removal of a catheter**.